

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday
December 3, 2009
6:30 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-112
Bellevue City Hall
Bellevue, Washington

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Szablya, Vice-Chair Helland, Commissioners Carter, Mach, Mahon, Roberts,

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Swenson

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilmember Davidson, Nav Ota, Tom Spille, Cameron Parker,

MINUTES TAKER: Laurie Hugdahl

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Szablya at 6:35.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

- David Plummer, 14414 NW 14th Place, Bellevue, commented that the utility staff has proposed to decrease utility rates and double the tax on water. He discussed how the City of Seattle has dealt with this issue. He complained that the reasons for the change have not been communicated to the public. To replace the lost revenue from the reduction in water rates they have increased the tax rates. He reviewed aspects of Cost of Service Analysis. He urged that the ESC consider this problem in a lot more detail.
- Don Fry introduced himself as a representative of Allied Waste Services who is the waste collection service provider for Bellevue. There is an annual performance review tonight and he is here to answer any questions that might come up.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Commissioner Helland, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously (6-0)

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 5, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Helland noted that since he was not at the previous meeting the count for the vote should be corrected to (6-0).

Commissioner Roberts referred to the last sentence at the bottom of page 8 and noted that this sentence should be corrected to: *Commissioner Roberts spoke in support . . . of both lines on both lanes at the same time.*

Motion made by Commissioner Mach, seconded by Commissioner Roberts, to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

5. FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

None.

6. REPORTS & SUMMARIES

- a. ESC Calendar/Council Calendar - Ms. Ota reviewed the calendar
- b. Desk Packet Material (s)
 - Conservation & Outreach Events & Volunteer Opportunities
- c. National League of Cities Update

Councilmember Davidson gave an update on his recent trip to the National League of Cities event. Commissioner Roberts asked how participation in this event was determined. Councilmember Davidson explained that it is related to size and need. He discussed how amazing it is that the issues cities are facing are all very similar.

- d. Bellevue Parks & Open Space Plan

Cameron Parker explained that Parks & Community Services Department is making an update to the Parks and Open Space System which is a 20-year long-term plan. Primary drivers for park and recreation planning are the Council on Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) standards, Washington Recreation and Conservation Office, and Washington State Growth Management (GMA). General tasks related to the update include collecting public opinion, referencing recent plans and updating the capital project list.

Public opinion is being collected by surveys (random sample parks and recreation survey), parks and recreation web-based survey and other city

surveys; blog and web dialogue; and presentations to boards, commissions and community groups. He reviewed the results of the survey regarding frequency of park use by facility type. The top five uses were trails, playgrounds, open areas, community beach and outdoor sports fields. For youth under the age of 18, the same five responses were gathered with playgrounds being the most popular followed by community beaches, trails, open areas, and sports fields. Recommended priorities for city development of parks and recreational facilities included these same five categories. He stated that this shows that what people use frequently they tend to want to use more of. People's perception regarding walkability to parks revealed that 86% of residents felt they had a park within walking distance. Most people who were able to walk to a park said they felt they were able to walk safely to a park. Staff asked people to choose between acquisition and development. 53% said the focus should be on developing current properties. 46% said the focus should be on acquiring new land. (1% said they don't know).

Recent plans that have been referenced in this update include: Bel-Red Subarea Plan, Coal Creek Annexation, Cultural Compass, Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan, Urban Ecology (Tree Canopy) Analysis, and the Environmental Stewardship Initiative. Staff is also anticipating the 2011 Comprehensive Plan Update and the Comprehensive Drainage Plan Update.

Questions:

Commissioner Helland asked if staff intended to publish the results of the web survey. Mr. Parker stated that they would.

e. Annual Solid Waste Contract Performance Review & Audit Presentation

Tom Spille, Contract Administrator for the Utilities Department, gave an update on the Annual Solid Waste Contract Performance Review

Background: The City currently contracts for solid waste collection with Allied Waste. This is comprehensive collection of garbage, recyclable and yard debris for single family, multifamily, and commercial customers. The contract began in June 2004 and the city is very pleased with the service they have received. As part of the contract Allied pays for this annual performance survey and compliance audit by providing funding up front which the City then uses to hire a consultant. The annual review consists of a satisfaction survey and a contract compliance audit. The review period is July 2008 through June 2009. The results show that the customer satisfaction is generally high and the contractor is in compliance with most contract provisions. There was some discussion about the cost of the survey and audit. Ms. Otal remarked that the contract is very complex so it is good to have an outside body review the compliance with contract provisions. Overall 96% of single family residential customers are satisfied with the service. For

multifamily /commercial the satisfaction rating was 94%. Other satisfaction ratings were also discussed. The contract compliance audit was conducted in July and August 2009 and reviewed compliance with 37 contractually required procedures. The audit included on-site visits, interviews and review of records. He identified three issues which all must be corrected by March 2, 2010. Commissioner Helland noted that 60 days from today would not be March 2, it would be February 2. Mr. Spille concurred and noted that this should be corrected to February 2, 2010 as that is 60 days from today. He reviewed the issues that need to be corrected. These include: payment of automatic damages to customers, customer service monitoring, and dumpster inventory. Allied Waste is already working on these issues.

Questions:

Commissioner Helland asked about the reason behind the increased satisfaction. Mr. Spille stated that a few years ago Allied changed general managers. With the recent merger they have had a focus on having a more corporate culture. There was discussion about the culture of the company.

Commissioner Helland asked about the contract length. Mr. Spille explained that it is a 7-year contract and the city may extend the contract year by year for three years after that.

Chair Szablya asked how effective we have been in getting people to recycle and use yard waste. Mr. Spille replied that in 1989 3% of the population recycled. Now it is 67%. He offered to provide this information at a later date. Don Fry from Allied Waste added that two years ago, participation in food waste and yard waste was around 3%. It has now jumped to 10%. Also, people are doing a great job of recycling.

f. 2010 ESC Workplan

Ms. Otal reviewed the tentative ESC calendar. Councilmember Davidson discussed how they set up the capital and the operating budget. There was discussion about capital versus operating budgets. Ms. Otal explained that Utilities handles it differently than the Council. She stated that she is quite excited about the Council's new budgeting process. Councilmember Davidson stated that the basic principle in Bellevue is to pay as you go. He added that at a wastewater regional meeting today they heard that rates will be going up 21% in King County in the next few years. Ms. Otal continued discussing the tentative ESC calendar. There was consensus to move the July meeting to the 2nd week in July on a regular basis.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None

8. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE REPORT

Ms. Otal stated that the Council will be adopting changed water rates and water utility rates. She referred to the update on fire flow capacity issue memo as contained in the desk packet and discussed the reasoning and results of the proposed changes. There is no financial impact to the customer; this is a technical adjustment as far as the customer is concerned.

9. CONTINUED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Szablya and the rest of the Commission extended thanks to Commissioner Mahon for the excellent food tonight. Commissioner Mach offered to bring the snack for January's meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Roberts seconded by Commissioner Carter to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).